

Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding

Q&A for Members and Partners

What is the Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding?

The funding, also known as EBSS AF, is a one-off £400 payment to households who **did not receive** the main Energy Bills Support Scheme from HM Government that launched in 2022, and which was paid in six monthly installments through an energy provider.

Who will be eligible for the scheme?

Most households without a direct relationship to an electricity supplier will be able to apply for the payment.

Households considered eligible for EBSS Alternative Funding include:

- Park home residents
- Housing association, social and private tenants, and leaseholders, supplied via a landlord with a commercial meter
- Partly and wholly self-funded care home residents
- Households in house boats on residential moorings
- Households on a private electricity network, for example those supplied by a heat network
- off-grid households
- Traveller households on authorised sites
- Households who live in a dwelling on business premises that is used wholly or partly for domestic purposes
- Households in temporary/supported accommodation

No household will be eligible for both the main EBSS instalments and an EBSS Alternative Funding payment.

What if an applicant moves from an EBSS eligible address to an EBSS Alternative Funding eligible address before the closing date?

In this case, as long as the applicant meets the other eligibility criteria on the date of application for EBSS Alternative Funding, they will be considered to be eligible to receive the payment.

What criteria must EBSS Alternative Funding applicants meet on the date of their application?

- The dwelling for which support is being claimed is the main or sole residential address of the applicant
- The household must be resident at the eligible premises on the date they apply for the scheme
- The applicant or resident is responsible for paying for energy used in the dwelling as part of a service charge, rent or other arrangement, and may, through these charges increasing have the impact of increased energy bills costs passed on to them between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023
- The household is not already receiving EBSS payments, either through the main EBSS scheme or the EBSS Alternative Funding, in whole or in part
- The household dwelling is not a business premises or other form of non-domestic premises, is used wholly or mainly for domestic purposes, with the exception of businesses whose main business activity is to provide long term residential accommodation (landlords, care homes etc)
- Where an address comprises two or more separate eligible occupied domestic premises, each premises must demonstrate eligibility for an EBSS Alternative Funding payment.

How can households apply for the Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding?

Applicants for the EBSS Alternative Funding are via a central Gov.UK portal. The online portal is expected to go live from **27th February 2023** and close to new applications **31st May 2023**. Final applications will be provided to local authorities on Friday 2 June 2023.

Applicants will not be able to re-access an application on the portal once it has been submitted. After submission, applicants will get a reference number via email, if no email address was provided, notification will be by post.

Is there an application route for people who require support or do not have online access?

An 'Assisted Digital' call centre will provide phone support to help households who require assistance filling in the online application. This will be a freephone telephone number. Support workers and organisations can use this option to support those who are unable to apply themselves.

How will payments be distributed?

Local authorities will be responsible for distributing support payments to eligible applicants once eligibility checks have been made. Only one payment may be made per eligible domestic premises and will only be paid into a verified bank account. **Local authorities will ensure all payments are made to eligible applicants by 7 July 2023.**

The Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding is separate from the Alternative Fuels Payment, which is a £200 payment for households that do not use mains gas and use

an alternative such as biomass, solid fuels and LPG instead. This is already being distributed automatically by electricity providers. Details of how to apply for households without a direct relationship to an electricity provider will be available soon.